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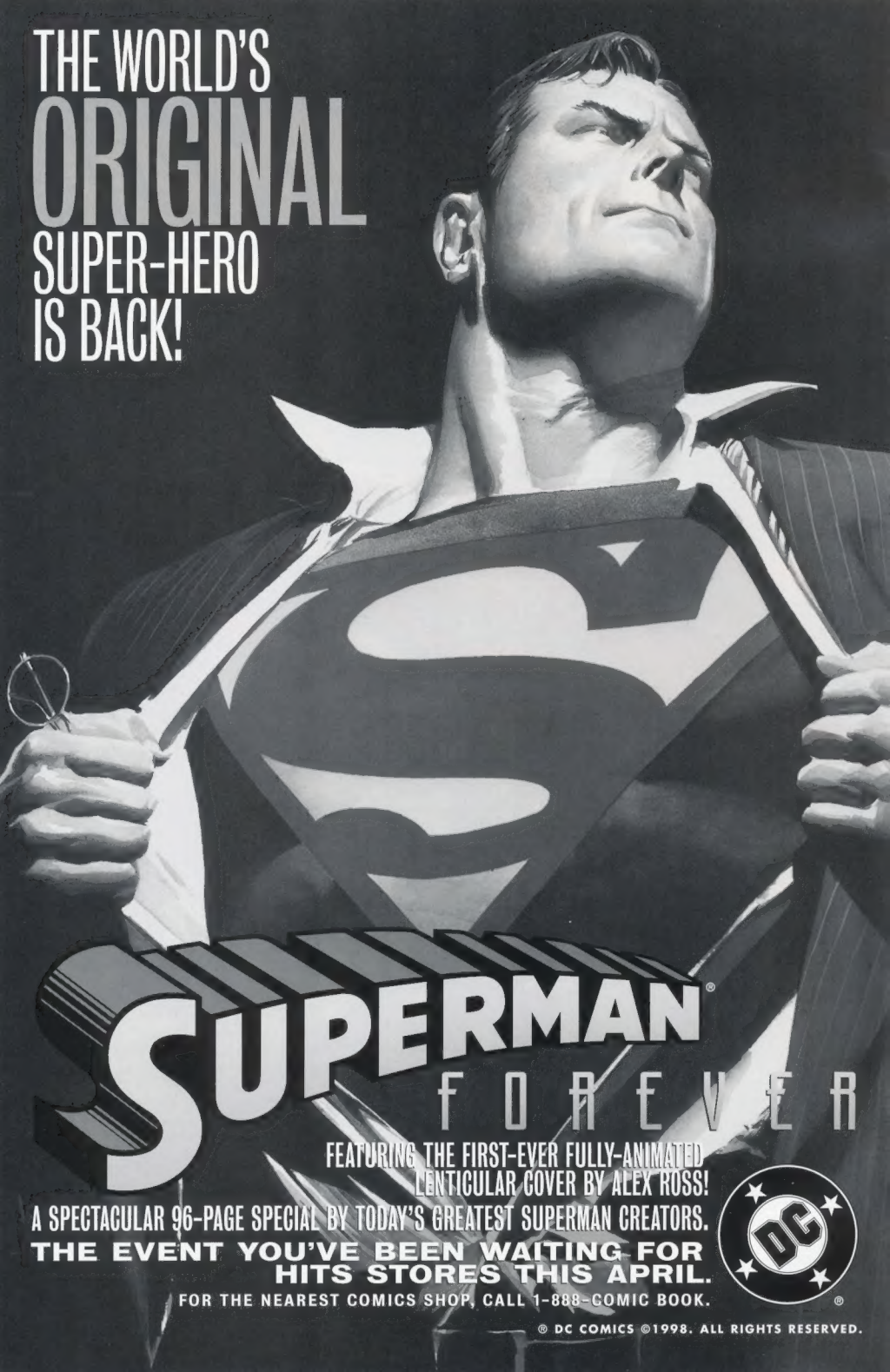
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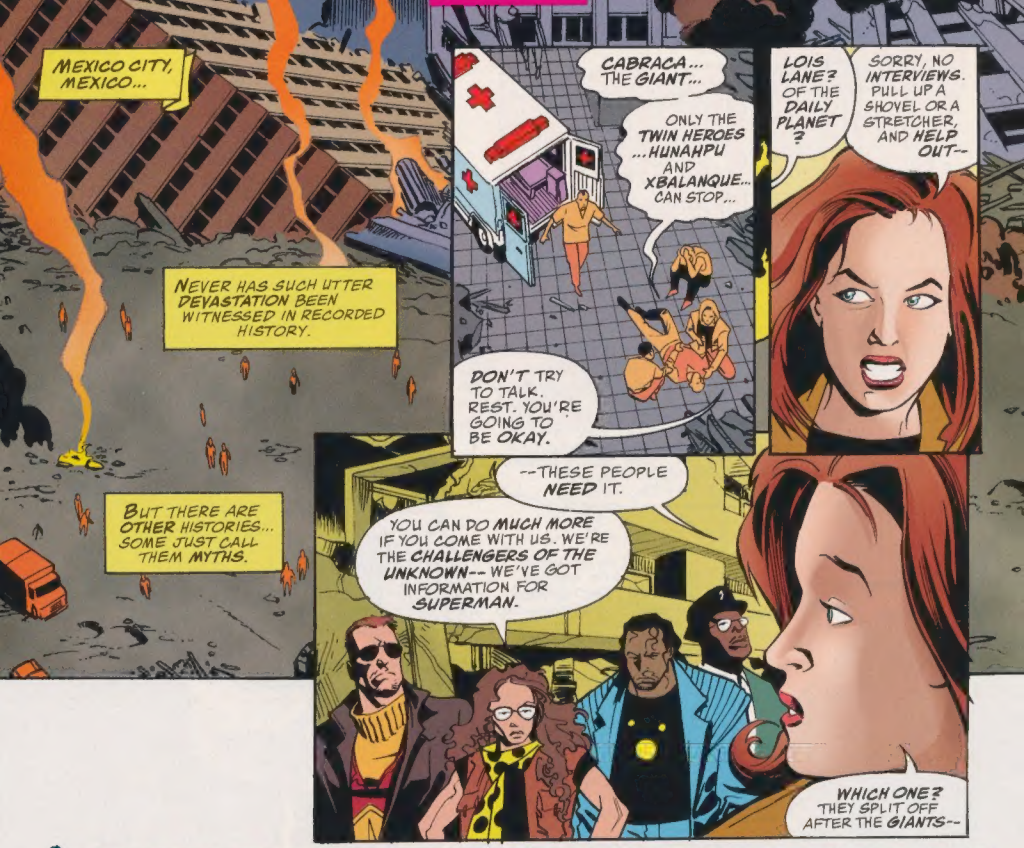
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO...
NEVER HAS SUCH UTTER DEVASTATION BEEN WITNESSED IN RECORDED HISTORY.
BUT THERE ARE OTHER HISTORIES... SOME JUST CALL THEM MYTHS.
CABRACA... THE GIANT...
ONLY THE TWIN HEROES ...HUNAHPU AND XBALANQUE... CAN STOP...
DON'T TRY TO TALK. REST. YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.
LOIS LANE? OF THE DAILY PLANET?
SORRY, NO INTERVIEWS. PULL UP A SHOVEL OR A STRETCHER, AND HELP OUT--
--THESE PEOPLE NEED IT.
YOU CAN DO MUCH MORE IF YOU COME WITH US. WE'RE THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN-- WE'VE GOT INFORMATION FOR SUPERMAN.
WHICH ONE? THEY SPLIT OFF AFTER THE GIANTS--

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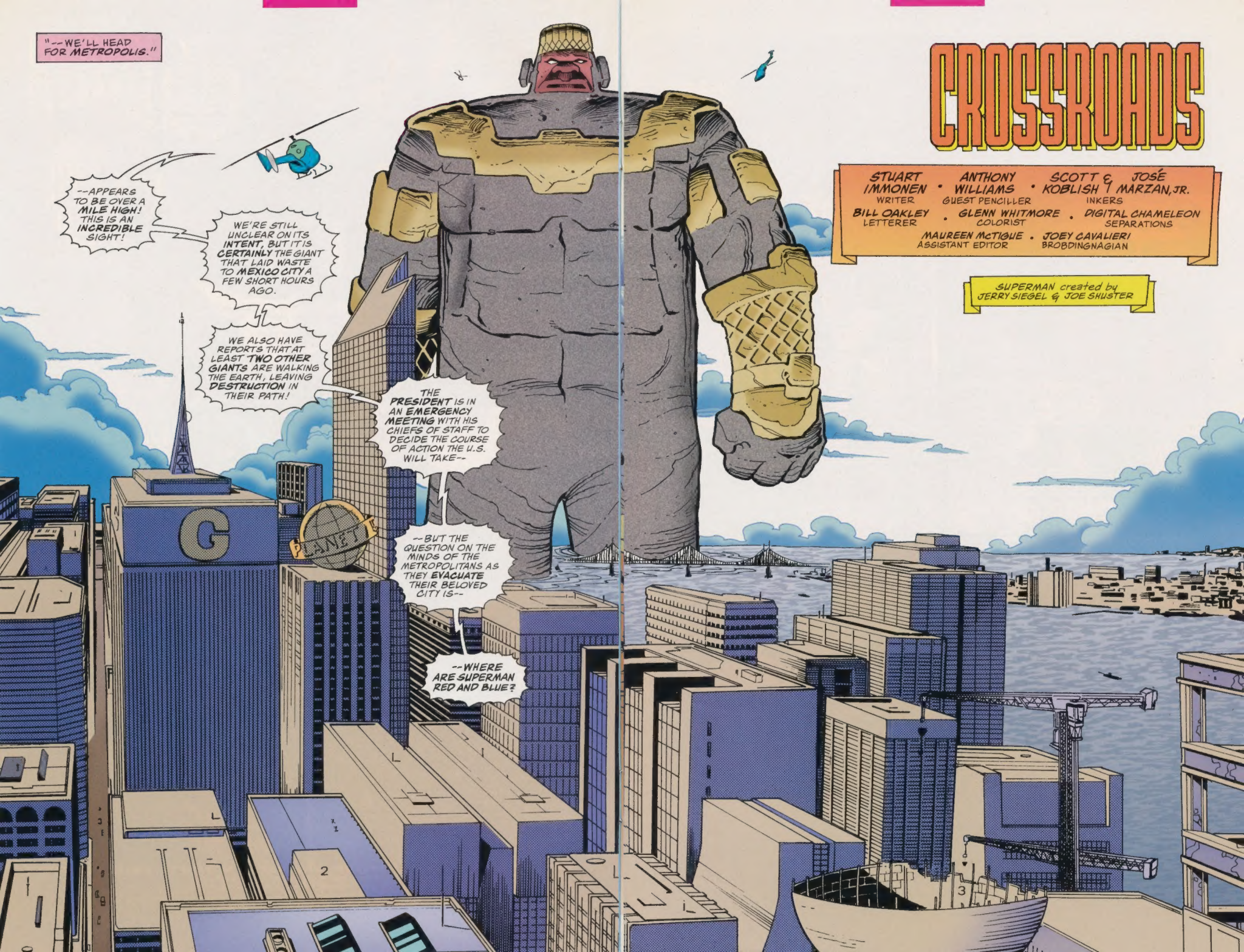
"--WE'LL HEAD FOR METROPOLIS."
--APPEARS TO BE OVER A MILE HIGH! THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT!
WE'RE STILL UNCLEAR ON ITS INTENT, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY THE GIANT THAT LAID WASTE TO MEXICO CITY A FEW SHORT HOURS AGO.
WE ALSO HAVE REPORTS THAT AT LEAST TWO OTHER GIANTS ARE WALKING THE EARTH, LEAVING DESTRUCTION IN THEIR PATH!
THE PRESIDENT IS IN AN EMERGENCY MEETING WITH HIS CHIEFS OF STAFF TO DECIDE THE COURSE OF ACTION THE U.S. WILL TAKE--
--BUT THE QUESTION ON THE MINDS OF THE METROPOLITANS AS THEY EVACUATE THEIR BELOVED CITY IS--
--WHERE ARE SUPERMAN RED AND BLUE?
CROSSROADS
STUART IMMONEN WRITER
ANTHONY WILLIAMS GUEST PENCILLER
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SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

WHERE IS HE?!
OFFICE OF MAYOR B. SACKETT, METROPOLIS
NO ONE'S SEEN SUPERMAN-- EITHER OF THEM-- FOR A DAY OR SO, MR. MAYOR.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT KENT? ISN'T HE OUR LINK TO SUPERMAN? WHERE'S HE?
THE DAILY PLANET'S BEING EVACUATED WITH THE REST OF THE CITY, SIR.
THE NATIONAL GUARD IS MOBILIZED AND LOCAL FORCES ARE DEALING WITH THE OUTFLOW AS BEST THEY CAN.
THERE ISN'T MUCH MORE WE CAN DO, IS THERE?
NO. NOT MUCH...
"... BUT THERE'S ONE MORE CALL I CAN MAKE."
ahaaaah
THERE, THERE, LENA. YOUR FATHER IS PREPARED FOR EVERY EVENTUALITY.
EVEN IF THE CITY-- THE ENTIRE PLANET-- SUFFERS IN THIS CONFLICT, WE WILL BEGIN ANEW ON OUR RETURN. YOU HAVE MY WORD.
AND LEX LUTHOR'S WORD IS A CONTRACT.
RRINNG RINNG
"HOW CAN YOU LEAVE? AT A TIME LIKE THIS?"

A ▶ HEY, FEELING GOOD IS FOLDING A TO B. ◀ B

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WOW, IT'S AMAZING HOW FAR WE WILL GO TO FIND A NEW PEACH Y KEEN FLAVOR. FOR EXAMPLE, SENDING A STRAW BERRY QUE STIONING ITS FATE BY ROCKET LAU NCHER FROM FRUIT LESS TOIL ON EARTH TO A DISTANT UT OPIA.

WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE HAVING FUN AND HOPEFULLY WE MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.

A ▶ ◀ B

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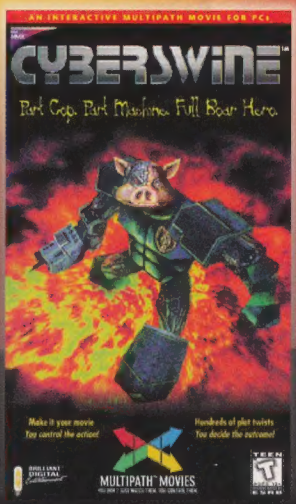
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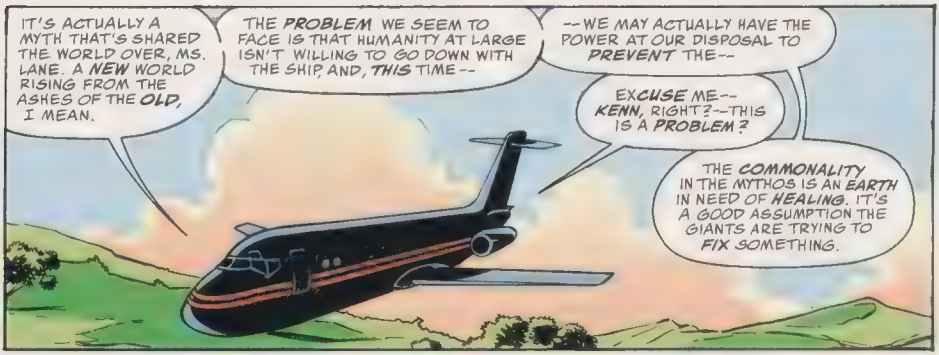
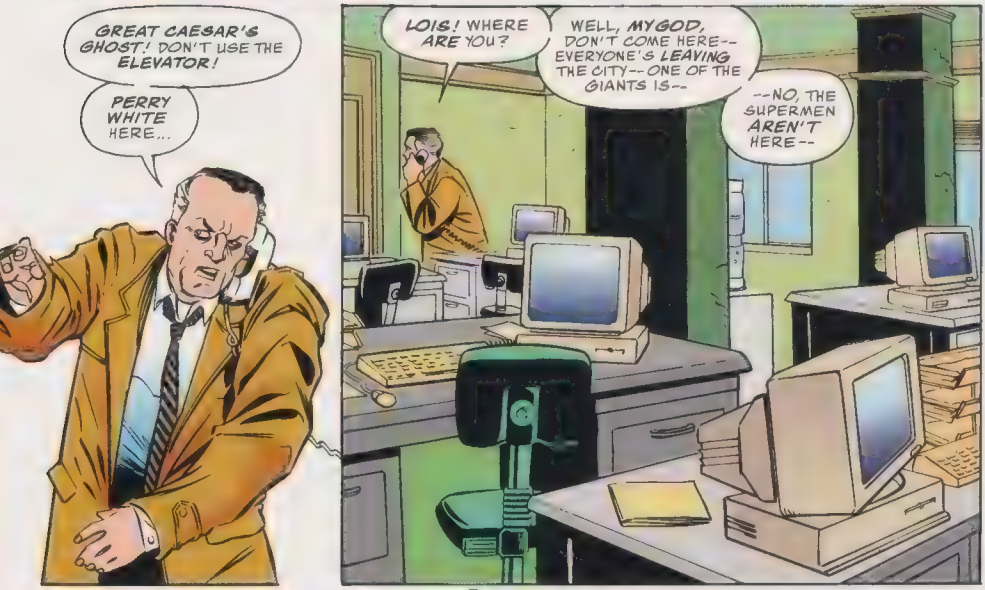
WE'RE NOT ABANDONING MARKOVIA, GEO-FORCE! YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND THAT THIS THREAT IS GLOBAL!
SUPERMAN'S AFTER CABRACA, BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US WITH TWO GIANTS TO TACKLE.
ATOM IS RIGHT. WE NEED TO DIVIDE OUR FORCES TO TAKE ON SEKHMET AND CERNE. FLASH, YOU'RE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE JLA...
... AND ATOM CAN TAKE THE TITANS--
I AM STAYING.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THE EARTH IS GONNA MAKE LIKE HUMPTY DUMPTY IF WE DON'T STOP THE GIANTS, RIGHT?
RISK, JUST SHUT UP. THE MAN'S GOT HIS REASONS. WE SHOULD RESPECT THAT.
WE NEED ALL THE POWER WE'VE GOT, AND THIS GUY--
STICK HIS REASONS, BUCKETHEAD! IF YOU HADN'T DESTROYED THAT ENERGY GUN THE SITCH'D BE DEALT WITH!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! STEEL, YOU'RE WITH US. RISK, TAKE SUPERGIRL AND SUPERBOY ON YOUR TEAM.
I'M COMING, TOO.
TERRA? YOU WOULD LEAVE MY PEOPLE? I THOUGHT--
I'M SORRY, GEO-FORCE. YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME, BUT I'VE FAILED THIS LAND--
--I CAN'T FAIL THE EARTH, TOO. I HAVE TO GO!

JUSTICE LEAGUE?
IT'S BATMAN!
IF YOU'RE GOING AT ALL, YOU NEED TO GO NOW.
ARRRGNT? OKKAY?
YEAH, FINE, FRINGE. FINE.
THE LEY LINES SET IN MOTION BY THE GIANTS HAVE NOT STOPPED THEIR PROGRESSION.
THE ONES BEGUN IN MARKOVIA ARE SPREADING AROUND THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE GLOBE. YOU NEED TO PREVENT THE GIANTS FROM FORMING MORE.
THE NEXT PROJECTED RISK AREA IS THE VEMA FRACTURE ZONE--
"--IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC."
I'D HOPED WE WERE ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE, AQUAMAN --THAT THE LEY LINE SET IN MOTION NEAR TRITONIS WOULD HAVE...
...I'M NOT SURE-- BURNED OUT, I SUPPOSE.
APPARENTLY NOT, MARTIAN MANHUNTER. WE'VE FOLLOWED IT FOR NINETY LEAGUES NOW, AND THERE'S NO SIGN--
--GOOD LORD.
THE ORB IS GLOWING! SCATTER! IT'S GOING TO--

SKRREEEEEEEEEEEE
THE LINES ARE CROSSING!
THE SEA BED! IT'S RISING!
KRUMMM
KSHOOSH
NOT JUST THE EARTH, AQUAMAN! 2,000 FEET OF WATER IS FLOATING OUT TO SPACE!
HOW-- HOW CAN WE FIGHT A FORCE LIKE THIS?
UNTIL THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO CARRY ON...


IT'S ACTUALLY A MYTH THAT'S SHARED THE WORLD OVER, MS. LANE. A NEW WORLD RISING FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD, I MEAN.
THE PROBLEM WE SEEM TO FACE IS THAT HUMANITY AT LARGE ISN'T WILLING TO GO DOWN WITH THE SHIP. AND, THIS TIME--
--WE MAY ACTUALLY HAVE THE POWER AT OUR DISPOSAL TO PREVENT THE--
EXCUSE ME-- KENN, RIGHT?--THIS IS A PROBLEM?
THE COMMONALITY IN THE MYTHOS IS AN EARTH IN NEED OF HEALING. IT'S A GOOD ASSUMPTION THE GIANTS ARE TRYING TO FIX SOMETHING.

WELL, ACTUALLY... WE THINK THE "MILLENNIUM GUARD" THAT WOKE THEIR MASTERS RE-VERTED TO STONE "DRAGON'S TEETH"... BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ENDED UP.
THEY ALL CAME FROM THE EARTH ITSELF, SUPPOSEDLY DUE TO AN ANOMALY IN THE EARTH'S ENERGY FIELD... IF WE KNEW WHAT THE ANOMALY WAS...
ENERGY MIGHT BE SIPHONED FROM THE GIANTS THEMSELVES, IF THERE WAS SOME WAY TO PRODUCE AND CONTROL A MASSIVE FUSION PROCESS...
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? CAN I USE A PHONE?
HERE...


GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! DON'T USE THE ELEVATOR!
PERRY WHITE HERE...
LOIS! WHERE ARE YOU?
WELL, MY GOD, DON'T COME HERE-- EVERYONE'S LEAVING THE CITY--ONE OF THE GIANTS IS--
--NO, THE SUPERMEN AREN'T HERE--

WAIT A MINUTE--
"--WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL HIM?"
THRAK-KOOM!
THE TRIP FROM TRITONIS TOOK LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED. I HAVEN'T ANY TIME TO SPARE--
--MY ONLY HOPE NOW IS TO GAIN THE ATTENTION OF CABRACA WITH POWER, JUST AS I DID IN THE UNDERWATER TRENCH--
BUT I NEED TO LOCATE A NATURAL LEY LINE TO AUGMENT MY--
?!!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
KA-KRRAAK-KKMMM BL
IT'S APPARENTLY A NEW LEY LINE-- BUT NOT OPENED BY CABRACA! HOW--?
NO TIME FOR POSTULATION--
--I'VE GOT TO ACT-- AND NOW!
SPLISH KRUMP!

THIS TRENCH WILL FUNNEL TIDAL WATERS INTO THE HEART OF THE CITY UNLESS I DAM IT UP!
THERE'S ENOUGH METALLIC DEBRIS ON THE HARBOR BED TO BE MAGNETICALLY LIFTED INTO PLACE--
THAT'S ODD-- SUDDENLY CABRACA'S INTERESTED IN MY HANDIWORK.
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- MY POWER ALONE DOESN'T SEEM TO INTEREST IT...
OF COURSE! I MUST HAVE DREDGED UP SILICATE ORES IN THE HARBOR!
MY ABILITIES ATTRACTED CABRACA WHEN "TUNED" TO LOCAL PATTERNS OF ENERGY BEFORE! MOVING THE ORES MUST HAVE ALTERED THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD!
THIS IS EXACTLY THE BREAK I NEEDED! I CAN LURE THE GIANT BACK INTO THE HARBOR...
... AND, I HOPE, STOP THIS DESTRUCTION FOR GOOD!
SHRESCH!
KOOM

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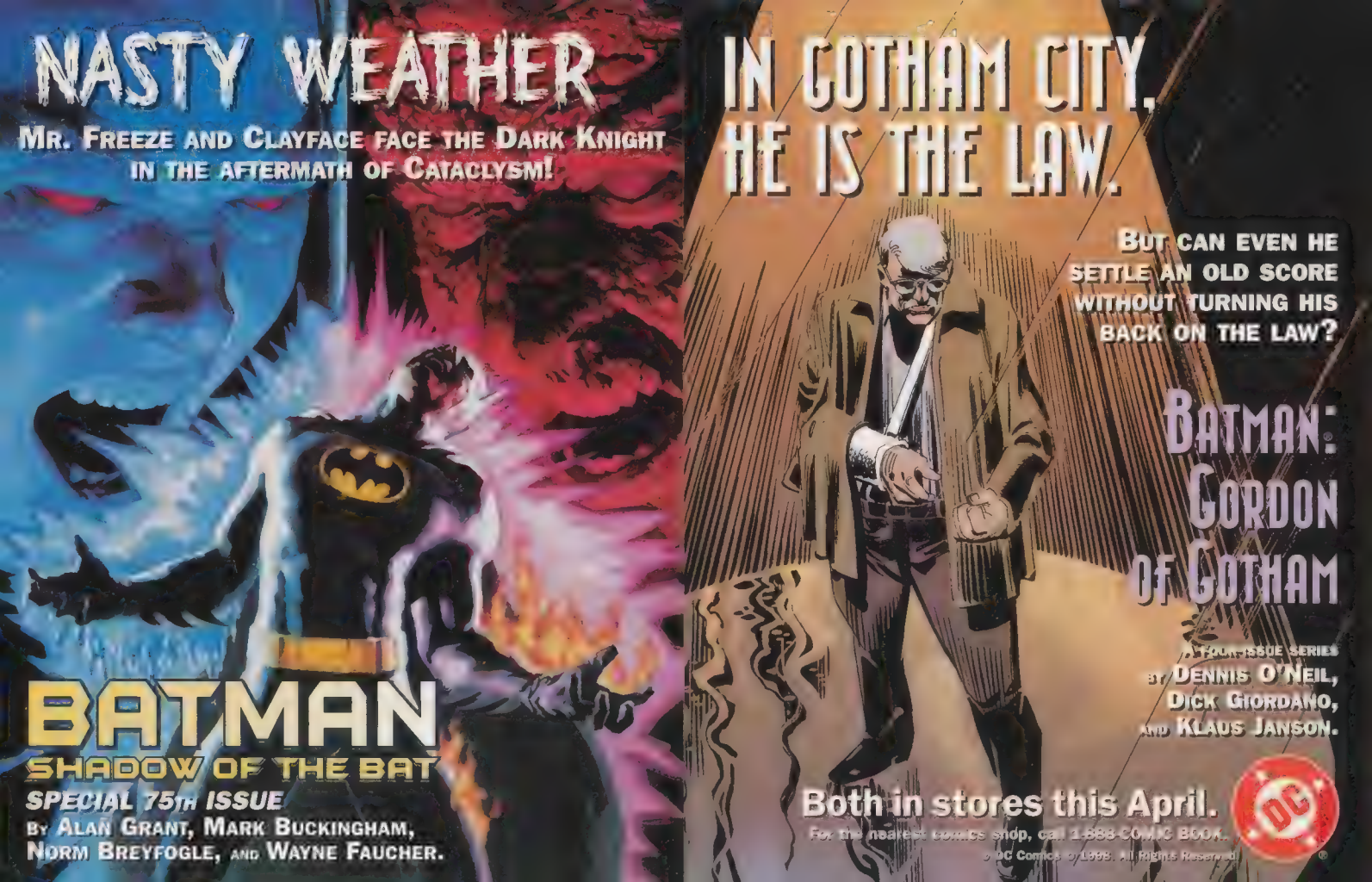
MY BLASTS AREN'T HAVING ANY EFFECT, GREEN LANTERN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO!
KEEP IT UP, MAN! MAYBE GRUESOME HERE CUT A SHINY BLACK HOLE IN THE FOOTHILLS OF CHINA, BUT IF WE DON'T BAG IT NOW, STEEL--
--THE EARTH'S GONNA LOOK LIKE ONE BIG EIGHT BALL!

RDOOM POOM. . .
THIS IS OUR STOP, DEAR LENA, AND LISTEN-- NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON.
LEXCORP
THOUGH MY PERSONAL SHUTTLE HAS TRANSPORTED US BEYOND METROPOLIS CITY LIMITS AND A QUARTER-MILE UNDER-GROUND, WE STILL HEAR THE GIANT'S TREMULOUS FOOTFALLS.
LEXCORP
YET I AM CONFIDENT THAT SOON, IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE, WE WILL HEAR THEM NO LONGER...
SUPERMAN? DO YOU COPY?
SUPERMAN?
NO GOOD. I CAN'T REACH HIM.
THAT CAN'T BE. THIS FIELD AMPLITUDE MODULATOR SHOULD BE TRANSMITTING E-M PULSES IN A 10K RADIUS.
WE NEED BOTH SUPERMEN TO EFFECT THE GIANTS' DESTRUCTION, BRENDA!
SUPERMAN BLUE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF US! IF WE CAN'T CONTACT HIM, HOW DO WE REACH SUPERMAN RED?
KRA-KOOM!
THAT SOUND--!

HEARD LOIS'S MESSAGE OVER THE ATLANTIC. BLUE'S SITTING ON HIS THUMBS, NATURALLY--
-- BUT I'M NOT AFRAID TO GET MY HANDS DIRTY!
THIS IS BAD. TWO SUPERMEN MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXECUTE BRENDA'S PLAN, BUT ONLY IF THEY CAN UNIFY THEIR ACTIONS.
NO! RED'S RUINING EVERYTHING!
DOESN'T HE REALIZE CABRACA WILL RETALIATE?
YOU ARE A TOUGH ONE, AREN'T YOU? LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF WE POUR ON THE ENERGY--
KSHAK
KSSHAFCH!
--YYIEEAH!

ZZTZAATTT
WHY THE DEVIL AREN'T YOU PEOPLE HIGHTAILING IT OUT OF HERE? YOU'VE BARELY MOVED OUT OF THE SHADOW OF THE PLANET!
LUCY? HELLO? HELLO?
C'MON, BOSS! WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE'RE JOURNALISTS, RIGHT?
I MEAN, SNOW NOR SLEET, ET CETERA, RIGHT?
THAT'S THE POST OFFICE, CARRIE.
BESIDES, THERE'S NOTHING IN THAT CREDO ABOUT WALKING MOUNTAINS.
CARRIE'S RIGHT, THOUGH, PERRY. IF SUPERMAN EVEN HAS A CHANCE OF WINNING, WE'RE OBLIGED TO DO OUR JOB, TOO.
RIGHT, SON. THERE'S TWO OF THEM, AFTER ALL.
WE'LL MAKE IT. METROPOLIS HAS SEEN WORSE...
...THOUGH NOT MUCH.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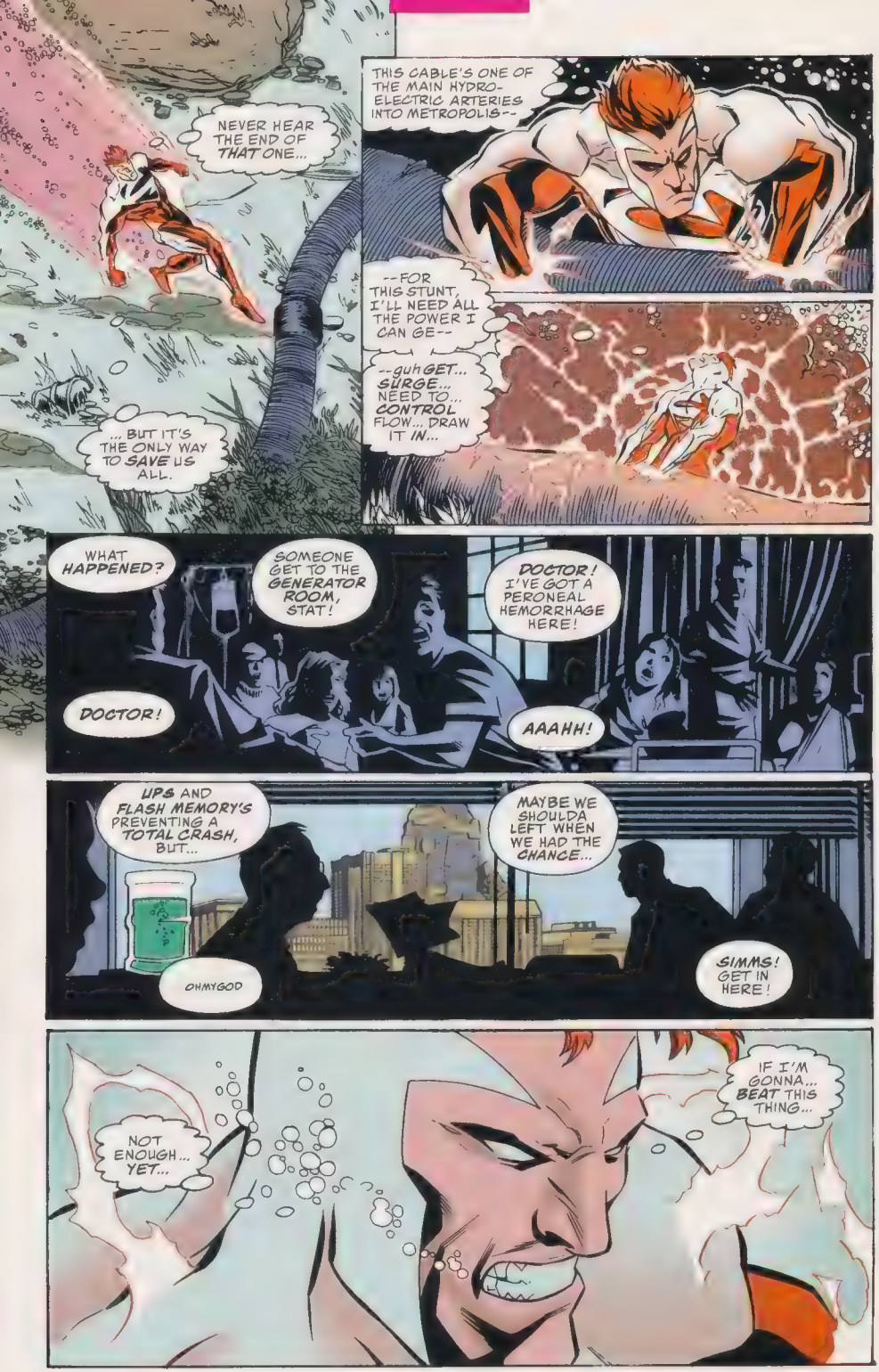
STEADY, SUPERGIRL! THAT FIFTY-FOOT KISSER'S NOT THE EASY SHOT YOU MIGHT IMAGINE!
ARRRGNT!
H-HELP!
HANG LOOSE, BABE! SUPERBOY'S ALL OVER YOUR ACTION!

uuhhh...
RED...?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? DIDN'T YOU HEAR LOIS'S TRANSMISSION?
OF COURSE! I WAS DOING WHAT SHE SAID --DESTROY THE GIANTS!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING? HOLDING A SEANCE?
WE NEED A PLAN! IT SOUNDED LIKE LOIS HAD INFORMATION! OUR IMPACT PROBABLY CUT LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS AND POWER! IF WE'RE GOING TO--
NO...
...NOT "WE."
SHRAK-KOOM!


NEVER HEAR THE END OF THAT ONE...
... BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE US ALL.
THIS CABLE'S ONE OF THE MAIN HYDRO-ELECTRIC ARTERIES INTO METROPOLIS--
--FOR THIS STUNT, I'LL NEED ALL THE POWER I CAN GE--
--guh GET... SURGE... NEED TO... CONTROL FLOW... DRAW IT IN...
WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEONE GET TO THE GENERATOR ROOM, STAT!
DOCTOR! I'VE GOT A PERONEAL HEMORRHAGE HERE!
DOCTOR!
AAAHH!
UPS AND FLASH MEMORY'S PREVENTING A TOTAL CRASH, BUT...
MAYBE WE SHOULDA LEFT WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE...
OHMYGOD
SIMMS! GET IN HERE!
NOT ENOUGH... YET...
IF I'M GONNA... BEAT THIS THING...

...I NEED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS.
TAPPED OUT THE CABLE.
GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE NOW.
POWER BOOST WASN'T ENOUGH! BODY'S BIG, BUT ETHEREAL.
DON'T KNOW IF I'LL MAKE ANY IMPACT AT ALL.
HIM, ON THE OTHER HAND...

IF I CAN DRAW POWER FROM BEYOND THE CITY...
...MAYBE I CAN STILL MAKE THIS A FIGHT WORTH HAVING... CONCENTRATE--
"-- FEEL FOR MORE... "
"SYSTEMS ARE INOPERABLE! WHAT ON EARTH--?"
BACKUP GENERATORS ARE OFF-LINE!
QUANTUM TRANSDUCERS LOSING ENERGY STORES!
COLD FUSION PODS INERT!
EVEN THE LAUNCH BAY DOORS HAVE STOPPED! LENA, THERE IS ONLY ONE EXPLANATION FOR THESE EVENTS--
"--SUPERMAN!"
IN ALL MY DAYS...
YOU MEAN, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS?
KID, I JUST HOPE WE'RE NOT THE LAST!

SORRY, DIRTBALL. YOUR EYEBLASTS GO RIGHT THROUGH ME THIS TIME.
I'M INTANGIBLE--
--THAT IS, UNTIL I CONVERT ENERGY INTO MATTER AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!
NOT MUCH MORE THAN A ;unh; BLUFF AT THIS POINT--
THAT EINSTEIN KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, HUH?
--CONTAINMENT SUIT'S AT ITS COHESIVE LIMITS...
...UNLESS I THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE, FAST--

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WATCH this space

are gonna be commercials with the top trio and chances to get free comics. Definitely NOT cheesy!

A STITCH IN TIME: Thanks to Executive Editor **Mike Carlin's Aunt Dot** for embroidering emblems of many of our heroes to decorate our office doors. She got the pattern for the symbols of Aquaman, Batman, Captain Marvel, Robin, Superman, and others from the "DC Comics Super Heroes Magnets in Plastic Canvas" book that DC published with **Leisure Arts** last year. (We also did an Iron On book, some cross-stitch books—a whole series available at arts and crafts stores. Hmmmm, maybe something to calm you down after reading our exciting comics all day would be a good idea.) Her nephew, Mikey, shared them with editors **Kevin Cooley, Scott Peterson, Denny O'Neil,** and others. Next month, all

COLOR ME MAD: You may see your humor in black and white, but MAD MAGAZINE doesn't for 16 pages anyway. Issue #368, out this month, will include a full-color spoof of *Entertainment Weekly*! (They're both owned by Time Warner. Talk about biting the hand...) Plus, MAD parries the parodies on "Alien: Resurrection" and "Scream 2"— in glorious black & white.

SPICE WARS: Whenever YOUNG HEROES IN LOVE and CREEPER editor **Dan Thorsland** hears his next-door neighbor, **Eddie Berganza**, editor of TEEN TITANS and RESURRECTION MAN, even mention the word "Spice," he knows Eddie's off on his new fave group, **The Spice Girls**. Eddie's posh office sports all the "action" figures, and he plays the CDs. But Dan thinks it's all scary and will gingerly close his door and posts a sign reading "The Fortress of Spicelessness." I am the anti-Spice!" Dan asserts, and willing to fan Eddie's fixation. He's no wannabe!

MACARONI & DC: Check your grocer's shelves! There's a new *Kraft Macaroni & Cheese, the* ***DC Comics Super Heroes edition!*** The front of each package highlights one of DC's top three heroes: Superman, Batman, or Wonder Woman. Logo-shaped pasta of DC characters will include not only Supes, Bats and WW, but Robin, Green Lantern, The Flash, Aquaman, and Batgirl. Three different sets of Super Heroes bios will appear on the package backs. Not only that, but if you send in box tops, you get stuff! There

HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLF: Colorist **Stu Chaitetz**, who's worked on STEEL and SUPERBOY & THE RAVERS, is on a 22-day hunger strike to protest New Jersey's open season on coyotes. Stu, a vegetarian, admits that part of his stance comes from what he learned as a kid from comics. "You're supposed to protect the weak. You're not supposed to kill them and take pleasure from it!"

PASSING OF A LEGEND: Comics legend **Winslow Mortimer** passed away. He worked as a staff artist at DC from 1945 to 1956 on such titles as BATMAN, DETECTIVE, WORLD'S FINEST, ACTION COMICS, SUPERBOY, and SUPERMAN. Win continued to contribute to titles from romance comics to the LEGION into the '80s. He was named Cartoonist of the Year at 1997's Comic-Con International: San Diego. Sadly, ill health prevented him from attending. Since 1972 he was an editorial cartoonist, and more recently, his work appears in several of Paradox Press's BIG BOOKS. He was 78.

READ THIS SPACE! ACTION COMICS #744 — Guest Stars Galore can't stop the Giants! ■ ANIMANIACS #37 — Brain takes over ■ AZRAEL #41 — Escape from Gotham ■ BATMAN #554 — what's shakin', Quakemaster? ■ THE CREEPER #6 — fast food, fast death ■ GREEN ARROW #132 — the JLA must stop...Eddie Fyers? ■ IMPULSE #37 — the Evil Eyes have it ■ JACK KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD #15 — Hunger Dogcatcher ■ JLA: YEAR ONE #5 — Doom Patrol Year One ■ LEGENDS OF THE DC UNIVERSE #4 — Princess Diana in Man's World (1 of 2) ■ LEGIONNAIRES #60 — two new members! ■ MAD #368 ■ NIGHTWING #20 — how deep is Batman buried? ■ SCOOBY-DOO #10 — a new member!? ■ SOVEREIGN SEVEN #34 — war room or homeroom ■ SUPERMAN ADVENTURES #19 — Protecting the President

-- WAIT.
THE GIANTS CAME FROM THE EARTH ITSELF--
--THEY'RE PART OF IT-- TIED TO IT PHYSICALLY--
--BUT WHAT IF THEY WEREN'T?
GOT TO TRY IT...
...PULL CABRACA UP--
--UP AND OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE-- BEYOND GRAVITY'S PULL.
:unh: IT WORKED. HE'S BREAKING UP... BUT--
--SO AM I!
ENERGY... DISSIPATING...
...CAN'T COHERE...
...BUT WORTH THE SACRIFICE... CABRACA'S--

NO.
HE'S...RE-FORMING!
AND I... CAN'T...
...STOP HIIMMMMM
"HE LOST.
"SATELLITE IMAGING SHOWS A METEORITE SHOWER OVER EASTERN AUSTRALIA.
"IT'S CABRACA."
THEY CAN'T BE STOPPED. THE MAYAN LEGEND WAS WRONG.
BUT...
...OH, LORD. THAT'S NOT THE ONLY LEGEND. I WAS WARNED.
"WE WERE ALL WARNED."
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN MAN OF STEEL #79!

RE: ACTION

ACTION COMICS #739

Dear Re:Action (re ACTION COMICS #739):

When I was a little kid, I loved Superman and the whole world that he lived in. Places like the bottle city of Kandor and the Phantom Zone, and foes like Bizarro and Mr. Mxyzptlk captured my imagination. I would beg my mom to spare me a dollar at the grocery store to buy copies of SUPERMAN or ACTION COMICS. Of course, once I hit junior high school, I was suddenly too cool to read Superman's adventures.

Now here it is, many years later, and I have to say that I've fallen in love with Superman and his world again. I picked up a copy of THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN because of a beautiful cover by Stuart Immonen and because Kandor was featured in the story. That one issue had me hooked. Since then, I've actually been buying two or three of the Superman group titles every month. Stuart is steadily climbing the ranks of my favorite comics artists, and his writing shows great promise, as the last two issues of ACTION have been topnotch. I love his rendition of Scorn in particular, both in a tuxedo or in the classic Superman costume. Scorn is great; I'll buy any issue that continues his story.

ACTION COMICS #739 was the best comic I bought this week. Scorn and Ashbury Armstrong make an interesting couple, to say the least, and I relate to both of them, even though I'm not a massive, horned blue alien nor a blind girl. It's fun to watch both characters mature. The tension brought by Locksmith's trap was written and drawn well, and despite the fact that the issue ended with a cliffhanger, I feel that the issue told a fairly self-contained story with a beginning and an ending. So many comics published today leave me feeling that nothing really happens within their pages—no story, no development, nada. ACTION #739 was not guilty of this, though it did leave me with a feeling of déjà vu...

Carl Draper. The name and his methods seemed familiar to me, but his costume didn't. I know that I haven't seen him before as Deathtrap or as Locksmith, but the name Carl Draper was nagging at me. So I searched through the beat-up comics that remain in my collection from the pre-junior high days to find a copy of SUPERMAN #331, from January, 1979. Aha! Here he was—Carl Draper, the Master Jailer, hopelessly obsessed with Lana Lang and equipped with a plan to destroy Superman. I was only eight years old when the comic was printed, but the story was still stuck in my mind. Thanks for bringing some childhood memories back to me. It's moments like this that really make comics fun to read.

ERIN M. BURNS
LANDER, WYOMING

Glad to keep rekindling your interest, Erin. For us, it's moments like this that make letters fun to read. Thanks!

Dear Super-Team:

Hi. I have two questions regarding Superman's current powers:

1) During his entrapment in ACTION #739, when Superman decided against phasing back into Clark because he was under video observation, this idea struck me: In issue #734, page 8, S-man phased/shifted/transformed into a Kandorian trooper—another manifestation of his new abilities, I assume. If he can do this, why doesn't he just stay "powered-up" and assume the image/form of Clark Kent? That way, his identity is still secure, but when the situation calls for it, he's able to perform his super-stuff without having to "become" Superman, 'cause he's *already* Superman. (This wouldn't have helped in the Deathtrap scenario mentioned above, but it still makes sense, and would negate his normal human problems like fatigue or the upcoming weight-gain.) If he's unable to do this, tell us why not, for logic's sake.

2) Are there adequate clues within the last year-plus of Superman continuity for the reader to piece together an accurate understanding of just why the man has changed into energy, and who or what is responsible?

Thanks.

K. LASTER
DALLAS, TEXAS

*Good questions, K. Why **didn't** Superman just "transform" into Clark and remain powered-up? Simple—he just didn't think of it. Besides, he even suspected that his subconscious was powering him down somehow when he was Clark.*

*As for the origin behind Superman's evolution, there have been some pretty adequate clues throughout the books. At this point, though, Supes is more concerned why there are **two** of him now!*

Dear Super-People:

I was amazed after reading ACTION COMICS #739. First off, how can a blind girl

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1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

be in love with a big, huge, *massive* blue creature named Scorn? Also, I have to say, Scorn needs a life. I mean, here's a great hero. He could be out there fighting crime, but instead, he'd rather go to a homecoming dance. Does this make sense?

Finally, regarding this comic, I have one question: Who is Rajiv Naga, and how does he relate to Lois?

STEVE SCHOENFELD
PLUM BORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Dunno what makes ya think Lois and Rajiv are related, Steve; he's merely the guy who tried getting revenge on Lois during her honeymoon because she was the one who took down his crooked brother (SUPERMAN: THE WEDDING ALBUM).

Why is the possibility of an Ashbury/Scorn romance so out of the question? Such "impossible romances" have been the stuff behind some of the best prose and comics characters in literature. Getting through these obvious hurdles is what makes this fun!

As for Scorn needing a life, we think going to the homecoming dance with someone he cares about constitutes living. It certainly makes sense to us.

Dear Re:Action:

At a time when artist/writers are a dime a dozen in comics, I honestly think Stuart Immonen may prove to be one of those guys who can actually *do* both, and do them well. In the space of two issues, Stuart's take has given ACTION, not to mention the Superman line, a nice shot in the arm.

He's not perfect yet; some of his storytelling is still a little soft, but hey, this has only been *two issues*. Guys like Frank Miller and Howard Chaykin needed time to get the hang of it, too. One area Stuart has had no problem with—at least in ACTION #738 and #739—is characterization. His characters are actually interesting to read. Not an easy task, especially for a character who's been written in every conceivable fashion over the past 60 years. I care about Immonen's take on Lois and Clark, I care about his Superman, and I even care about that big blue lame-o Scorn!

I won't be surprised if the letters pages might regard Stuart's writing as quiet, especially since the book he's on is called ACTION. But please, keep this guy around. He's too good for the Super-books to lose, both in the art and the writing departments, and he'll only get better.

KEITH MILLER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Naturally, we here at Superman H.Q. are gonna agree with you, Keith, but we certainly couldn't have said it better ourselves. We'd reward you with this month's Baldy, but you didn't include your full address, and we came across a letter that did...

Dear Super-Team:

I'd like to say great job on the artwork, and especially the story in ACTION #739. I've never heard of Locksmith before, but I've only been a Superman fan for about two years (and still climbing).

I've written to ACTION COMICS a number of times, but when I open the comic to find any of my letters, I haven't been in there. It's understandable; I'm not the only Superman fan out there, and you guys probably get pretty much close to a thousand letters just for one title. But then I read the little paragraph you had at the beginning of a recent letters page, and I realized I was sending my letters without the name of the title on the envelopes. Thanks, guys—now I know where I'm writing to. I hope you run my letter so I know what you guys have to say.

Thanks again, Super-Team.

MICHAEL WENNING
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

Consider your letter run, Michael, and your comments appreciated. Let us stress, though, that we'll run letters even if they're not always properly addressed according to the title; it's just easier to find certain letters if they're directed at a particular title, and especially a particular issue. And because you were considerate enough to extend us that courtesy, you're this month's Baldy winner! Congratulations! Aren't ya glad you wrote now?

—Mike McAvennie
Pro wrestler wannabe.

More big feet o' fury from the Millennium Giants on this month's cover, the final part of our nine-cover grid, as sketched by Ron Frenz, pencilled by Stuart Immonen, inked by Jose Marzan, Jr. and colored by Patrick Martin.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

NEXT WEEK: They say it's always darkest before the dawn. Well, it's gonna be pitch-black in MAN OF STEEL #79, as Red and Blue find themselves running out of options against the Millennium Giants! Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke supply the flashlights in seven days, just so you can see the great gatefold cover!

IN TWO WEEKS: Wow, it got even darker in SUPERMAN #135, as Earth's about to do its impression of Krypton's final moments! Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein give us the epic conclusion to this storyline in fourteen days—if we live that long!

IN THREE WEEKS: It's SUPERMAN FOREVER!, a 96-page extravaganza written by Karl Kesel, Dan Jurgens and Louise Simonson and featuring some of the best artists in the industry (including many members of the Super-Team, of course). This issue's available in two editions—a collector's edition with a painted lenticular cover made up of seven incredible paintings; and a standard edition, which offers a non-lenticular painted cover. What makes both editions even more exciting is that the painted covers are provided by none other than Alex Ross! What are you waiting for? Get down to the store and get in line!

IN FOUR WEEKS: It's a new age in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #558—kinda. Actually, it looks like an age that may be familiar to some of you. It certainly will be in twenty-eight days for Karl Kesel, scripter Jerry Ordway, guest penciller Steve Yeowell and Denis Rodier!

IN FIVE WEEKS: Swing with that happenin' Last Son of Krypton in ACTION #745 as the Prankster returns, as does an age that looks eerily like the 1970s! Those crazy cats Stuart Immonen, guest penciller Anthony Williams and José Marzan, Jr. spin their yarn in thirty-five days!

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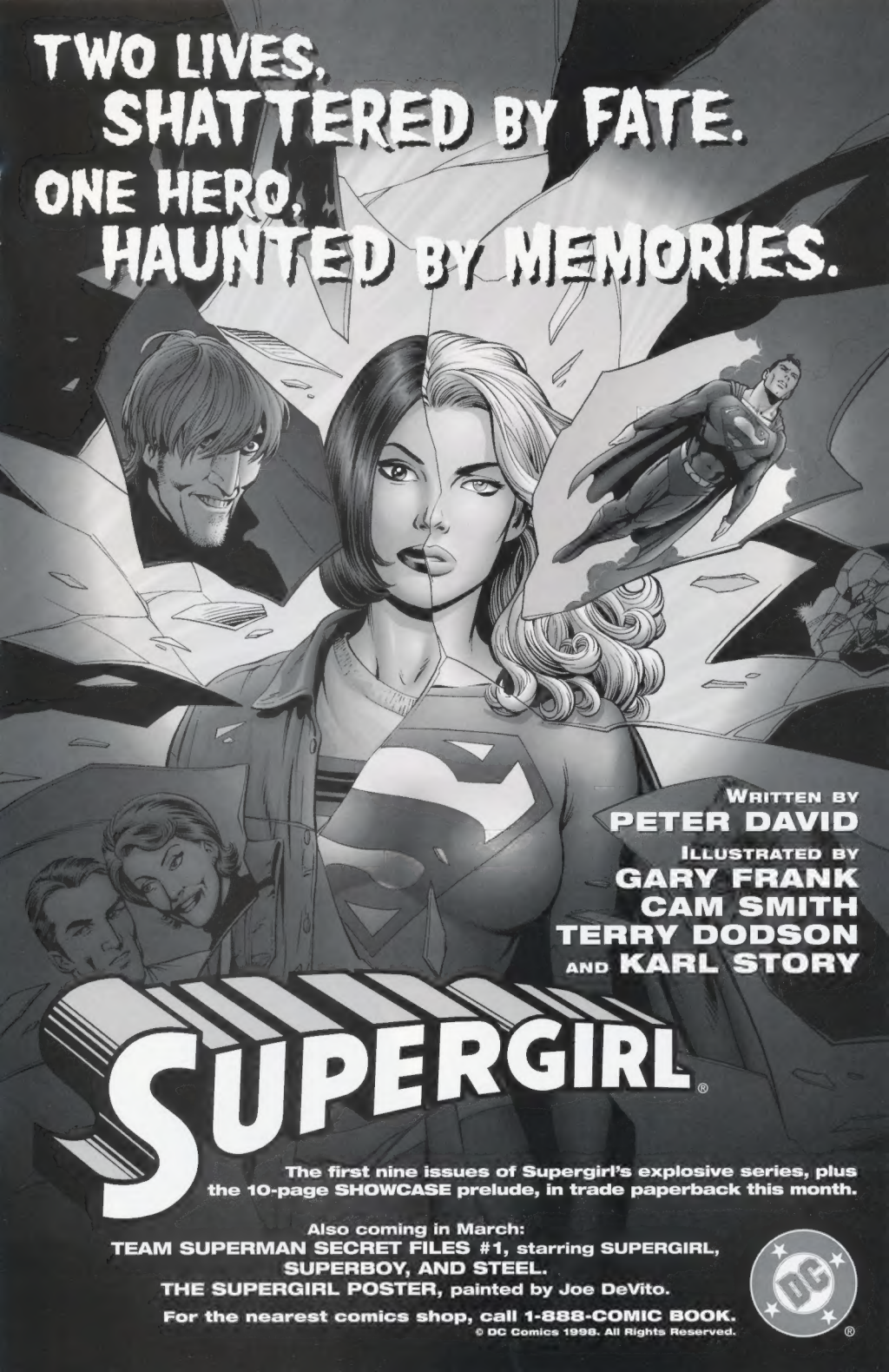

The first nine issues of Supergirl's explosive series, plus the 10-page SHOWCASE prelude, in trade paperback this month.

Also coming in March:
TEAM SUPERMAN SECRET FILES #1, starring SUPERGIRL, SUPERBOY, AND STEEL.
THE SUPERGIRL POSTER, painted by Joe DeVito.

For the nearest comics shop, call 1-888-COMIC BOOK.

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